

Other Movements for Change

Events of the 1960's marked a time of social change in America not just for African Americans but for others in society. Various methods were used by people and organizations to achieve their goals.



The Women's Rights Movement

The Women's Rights Movement was not a product of the 1960's, but it was a time of major advancements for women. A review of the past successes is key to understanding what would continue.

- 1848, the **Seneca Falls Convention** saw the start of an organized Women's Rights movement
- 1870, the **15th Amendment** gave African American men the right to vote but not women. **Susan B. Anthony** began to fight for a suffrage amendment but it was defeated in Congress
- 1920, the **19th Amendment** after World War I gave women the right to vote
- 1940's, thousands of women were employed in war-related industries during World War II

Despite having the right to vote, women had not achieved equal status with men both economically and socially. Women's organizations strived to achieve more job opportunities, equal pay, and an end to discrimination based on sex.

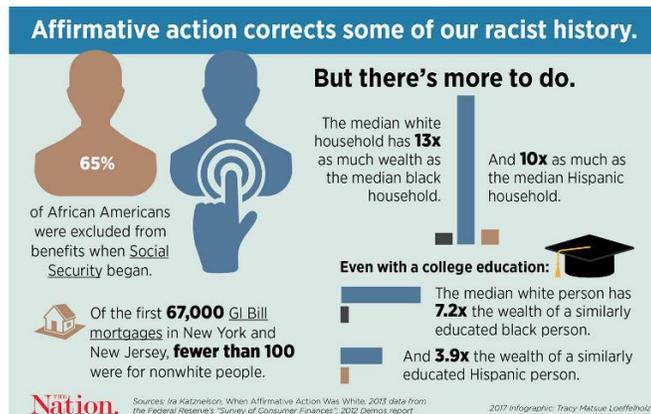
Both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson did not appoint any women to key posts but that did not stop the Women's Rights Movement.

- More women entered traditional male fields of employment, such as law, medicine, engineering, and the sciences
- **Betty Friedan** wrote *The Feminine Mystique*, a book that argued that after World War II women were forced out of the job market and were back to being housewives. Friedan stated that not all women were happy being housewives and more job opportunities should be made available to women.
- **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (1964)** ended job discrimination on the basis of sex as well as race
- **NOW – the National Organization of Women** was formed in 1966 advocating equality for women
- In 1972 Congress approved the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)** and sent it to the states for ratification. It has never been approved.
- The **Equal Opportunity Act of 1972 (Equal Pay Act)** required employers to pay equal wages for equal work
- **Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act (1972)** gave female college athletes the right to the same financial support as men

The Supreme Court case of **Roe v. Wade** in 1973 ruled that a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy is constitutionally protected. Laws that made having an abortion a crime were overturned as the court ruled that they violated a woman's right to privacy. The Supreme Court did rule that states could limit abortion only after the first six months of pregnancy.

Challenges to **Roe v. Wade** continue today and some states have approved legislation that places additional limits on abortions.

Affirmative Action became a key phrase within minority groups. Programs were started during the presidency of Lyndon Johnson that began taking positive steps to eliminate the effects of past hiring discriminations. It meant giving preferential treatment to members of these groups when hiring workers or applying to schools.



It was also a time when new vocabulary was added to the Women's Rights campaigns.

Feminism – the belief that women should have the same economic, social, and political rights as men. It is from this term that the Women's Rights Movement is also called the **Feminist Movement**.

Sexism – the term used to describe when there was discrimination against a person because of their sex. The Women's Rights Movement tried to remove all sexist terminology, practices, and literature from American business and education.

Glass Ceiling – the term used to describe a mid-level position to which women may be promoted but allowed women to see upper-level, better paying jobs not open to women and still held by men. It is an unspoken discrimination still practiced today.



Not all Americans supported to Women's Rights Movement. Some argued that women already had equal rights and some claimed that their goals undermined traditional American values. In 1971, President Richard Nixon vetoed a bill that would have created a national system of daycare as he believed that the family, not the government, should be responsible for childcare.

Some critics believed that Affirmative Action was in fact **reverse discrimination**, where white-males lost opportunities to less-qualified women and minorities. The Supreme Court Case of **Regents of the University of California v. Bakke** ruled that the school used racial quotas when deciding who to accept to medical school and Allan Bakke claimed that he was rejected to medical school in favor of less-qualified applicants. The court ruled that he had been denied protection under the Fourteenth Amendment but other affirmative action programs may be constitutional.

Other opponents to the ERA claimed that women's rights led to rising divorce rates, increasing numbers of abortions, and the growing acceptance and recognition of homosexuality, all threats to traditional values.

By 1982, the ERA was three states short of ratification and therefore defeated.



The **STOP ERA** movement headed by Phyllis Schlafly

A changing trend was seen in the late 1980's and in the 1990's, when women's groups began to demand legal protection against physical and mental abuse directed toward both women and children. Lawsuits were started to protest sexual harassment, especially in the workplace.



Other Groups that Struggled for their Rights

Native Americans

- They were granted **full citizenship in 1924**
- The **Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (FDR's Indian New Deal)** revised earlier policies to rebuild tribes and promote tribal culture

Many Native Americans lived below the poverty level and alcoholism and suicide were the highest of any ethnic group. Unemployment rates were far higher than the national average and the high school drop-out rate was near 50 percent. Native Americans looked towards the African American civil rights movement and formed their own organization and called for “**Red Power**” while forming the **American Indian Movement (AIM)**. The founder of this movement was **Russel Means**, a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe.



- In 1969, militant Native Americans seized **Alcatraz Island** and demanded it be turned into an Indian cultural center
- In 1972 AIM members occupied the **Bureau of Indian Affairs** in Washington, D.C. demanding rights and property they claimed were guaranteed under previous treaties
- In 1973 AIM members occupied the village of **Wounded Knee in South Dakota**. The takeover lasted two months in a protest for policy changes towards Native Americans

Russel Means stated that anyone born in the Western Hemisphere was a “Native American” and that he and all of the tribes were “American Indians.” “Justice in America is measured how native people are treated and many injustices were against Native Americans”.

Not all of their goals were achieved but these protests did draw attention to their demands. By 1989, Native Americans had been awarded over \$ 80 million as compensation for lost lands. **The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975** gave them more control over their reservations and the post of **Assistant Secretary of the Interior Indian Affairs** was created in 1975 to protect Native American interests.

In New York, in the case of **County of Oneida v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York State** (1985) ruled that Native Americans had the right to sue to enforce their original land rights. It also stated that when New York purchased 872 acres of land back in 1795, it was illegal.

In 1990 violence took place at the **St. Regis Indian Reservation (Akwasasne Mohawk Reservation)** over gambling. At issue was which group controlled reservation policy and what was the role of New York state in controlling casinos, gas stations and other related services.

In 2018, **Deb Haaland**, a Native American lawyer from New Mexico and **Sharice Davids**, a Native American lawyer from Kansas were the first two Native American women elected to the House of Representatives.

Latinos

The people from the countries south of the United States can be identified in a number of ways.

Latino – refers to people whose family origins are from any of the nations known as Latin America. **Latina or Latinas** refers to a female or a group of only females. The largest number of Latinos are Mexican Americans. They are sometimes known as **Chicanos** but this term only refers to Mexican American males.

Hispanic – is used to identify people from the Spanish-speaking nations of Latin America.

A Mexican man could be referred to as a Chicano, a Latino, and a Hispanic. A native Brazilian male would be Latino but not Hispanic as they speak Portuguese in Brazil.



Latino immigrants have often been denied equal opportunities in employment, education, and housing. The **Chicano Movement** of the 1960's tried to address these issues.

In the early 1960's, many Latinos, often migrants, were employed as farm workers who faced discrimination, poor pay, and hazardous working conditions. In 1962, **Cesar Chavez** emerged as a labor leader in California. The Union became known as the **United Farm Workers Union** and Chavez used civil disobedience tactics to advocate for "**Brown Power.**" Boycotts of grapes and lettuce increased public support for his cause.



Latino Victories in the 1960's

Labor	Politics	Civil Rights
Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union made important financial, health, and safety gains for farm workers	Voters elected Texans Henry Gonzalez and Eligio de la Garza to the House of Representatives. Joseph Montoya was elected to the Senate	The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund helped Mexican Americans gain civil rights and encouraged Mexican American students to become lawyers

People with Disabilities

Education

As far back as the early 1800's people such as **Dorothea Dix** fought for these people to gain their full rights. In 1857, the **Gallaudet College** in Washington D.C. was founded for hearing-impaired students. In the 1980's, students demonstrated to have a hearing-impaired president of the college. In addition, the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology provides deaf students with college training in technical and scientific fields.

In 1829, the **Perkins School for the Blind** opened in Boston and became a model for others. Today, many visually impaired students attend regular classes under a practice called **mainstreaming**, to bring handicapped students out of isolation of special schools and into the "**mainstream**" of student life.

David Alexander Paterson (born May 20, 1954) is an American politician and the former Democratic Governor of New York, serving from 2008-2010. **He was the first legally blind and the first black governor of New York.**

Special note: I had the wonderful opportunity to sit and talk to David several times as we both attended summer-session courses at Hofstra University, he was taking law courses, I was taking history courses. We both arrived early for our classes and sat in the grounds chatting!



The federal government has been active in setting out new programs and policies for people with disabilities. **President John F. Kennedy** was a true advocate for people with disabilities. He established the **Presidential Commission on Mental Retardation** to study and highlight the problems of the mentally handicapped. He also back the establishment of the **Special Olympics** for athletes with handicapping conditions.

**Special
Olympics**



The **Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504**, barred discrimination against people with disabilities in any programs, activities, and facilities that were supported by federal funds,

The **Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, now called IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** make sure that an appropriate education is given to children with disabilities, including special education and related services.

The **ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodation, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. There is now greater access to public buildings and transportation for people who use wheelchairs as well as the availability of electronic devices to allow hearing-impaired people to use telephones and enjoy television programs and movies.

Rosa's Law in October 2010 changed federal legislation by replacing the phrase “mentally retarded” with “intellectual disabilities” in the nation’s health, education, and labor policies.



Returning veterans, especially from the Vietnam War increased public attention to people with disabilities. Many celebrities have also taken up the cause for increased congressional funding for medical research. Of note are **Michael J. Fox** for Parkinson’s disease research, **Christopher Reeve** for spinal cord injuries research and the late **Elizabeth Taylor** for AIDS research.

Programs of Inclusion are now seen in schools. Students who previously had to attend special schools are now attending regular public and private schools in a major attempt of deinstitutionalization.



The Supreme Court and the Rights of the Accused

In the 1960's there were several landmark cases in the Supreme Court that were about the rights of a person accused of a crime. The decisions have impacted many Americans.

Mapp v. Ohio (1961)

In 1957, Cleveland police searched the home of **Dollree Mapp**. Mapp never saw a warrant and protested the search, but the search was carried out. During the search, the police found some "obscene materials" and Mapp was charged for being in possession of such materials. She was found guilty but protested that the police did not have a warrant to search her whole house.

The Court ruled that Mapp's rights had been violated and the **4th and 14th Amendments** protected a citizen against illegal searches. Now, evidence obtained illegally could not be used in federal or state courts and had to be excluding from all trial proceedings.

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)

Clarence Earl Gideon was accused of breaking into a pool hall in Florida and stealing change from a vending machine. Gideon was poor and could not afford a lawyer and requested that the judge appoint him one for his trial. He was denied a lawyer as state law said that he was only to receive a lawyer if the case involved the death penalty. Gideon tried to represent himself but was not successful and was sentenced to five years in prison.

While incarcerated, Gideon studied law and hand-wrote, on prison stationary, a letter to the court asking for his case to be heard as a pauper. The Court heard the case and ruled unanimously that the **6th Amendment** right to an attorney, which applied to all states in the **14th Amendment**, had to be followed. States had to provide lawyers for people accused of felony crimes and not just capital crimes. Gideon was given a new trial, with a lawyer, and acquitted of the original charges.

Miranda v. Arizona (1966)

Ernesto Miranda was charged with kidnapping and rape in Phoenix, Arizona. He was interrogated for hours and finally confessed to the crimes. He was tried and given a long jail sentence but it was discovered that he was not informed of his rights, which included the **5th Amendment right regarding self-incrimination**. His case was joined by three other similar cases and brought before the Supreme Court in 1966.

The decision was made that prior to questions, anyone accused of a crime had to be given their rights and police officers had now to carry a "**Miranda Card**" and it has to be read to all suspects prior to being taken into custody.

Miranda's second trial began February 15, **1967**. Miranda was again found guilty and sentenced to a 20-to-30-year jail term. On January 31, 1976, four years after being paroled, Ernesto Miranda was stabbed to death in a Phoenix bar fight. The killer fled but his accomplice was caught.

The Supreme Court and the Rights of Students

Students have also gained rights from key Supreme Court cases.

Engle v. Vitale (1962)

During the 1958-59 school year in **New Hyde Park**, Long Island, a small group of parents led by **Steven Engel (an atheist)** approached the head of the school board, **William Vitale** requesting that prayer not be recited in school every morning. The prayer said had been written and approved by the New York State Board of Regents. The school board refused Engel's request and said that any student who did not wish to participate could remove themselves from the classroom while the prayer was being recited. The parents believed that their children were being discriminated against which would cause them to be isolated from their classmates.

The Supreme Court ruled that **no public school could require students to say a prayer or absent themselves from the classroom for that prayer**. The decision was made according to the **First Amendment's establishment of religion clause**, which applied to the state's 14th Amendment clause. Although students were not required to say the prayer (which was non-denominational) its recitation in class put the students under pressure. This decision now affected all schools in the United States.

Tinker v. Des Moines School District (1969)

Mary Beth Tinker, her brother John, and several other students decided to wear **black armbands** to school in protest of the Vietnam War. School officials told them to remove the armbands. When the students refused, they were suspended. The Des Moines (Iowa) school board said the students had no right to wear the arm bands and they were disruptive to other students. When the students returned, they continued to wear the arm bands for the remainder of the school year.

The Supreme Court decision was that black armbands alone were not disruptive and students had the right to express their opinions as long as they did not disrupt the school day. The First Amendment also allows students rights and a safe school environment.

New Jersey v. TLO (1985)

This case involved a **14-year-old girl who, as a minor, and had to be identified only by her initials, TLO**. She and another student were found by a teacher to be smoking in the girl's restroom in school. They were taken to the principal's office where the other girl admitted but TLO did not admit to smoking. As a result, the principal searched TLO's pocketbook and found the cigarettes, drug paraphernalia, marijuana, and documentation of drug sales.

TLO and her family claimed that her rights had been violated by an unreasonable search. In the New Jersey courts, TLO was found guilty of drug possession and sentenced to one year in a juvenile facility. TLO's family challenged the ruling and the case went to the Supreme Court.

The Court affirmed that the 4th Amendment prohibition on unreasonable searches and seizures had applied to school officials. The need to maintain discipline allowed for searches on reasonable grounds. The Court concluded that, under the circumstances of this case, the search of T.L.O.'s purse did not violate the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Court did not address the issue of whether unlawfully seized evidence should be suppressed in a juvenile delinquency hearing. However, the Court decided that the Fourth Amendment applies to school officials.

Gay Rights and the LGBT Movement

June 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of an event that was considered to be the public recognition of the **Gay Rights Movement** in the United States. In Greenwich Village, New York there were a number of gay bars, including the **Stonewall Inn**. It was common in the 1960's for the New York State Liquor Authority to refuse licenses to bars with gay customers.

In late June 1969, a routine police raid on the Stonewall Inn turned violent with many injuries and multiple arrests. Eventually hundreds of thousands of people protested in six days of demonstrations. The **Stonewall Inn Riots** motivated gay and lesbian Americans to organize and work for equal rights and recognition. The Stonewall Inn is now a National Historic Landmark and on the last Sunday in June in New York and other major cities, a **Gay Pride Parade** is held and the rainbow colors adopted by the organizations are displayed.



The **LGBT Movement** (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender) is now a part of American society. Sometimes, the letter Q (for Queer) is added, acceptable to some members but an offensive slur to others.

Significant Events since the Stonewall Inn Riots

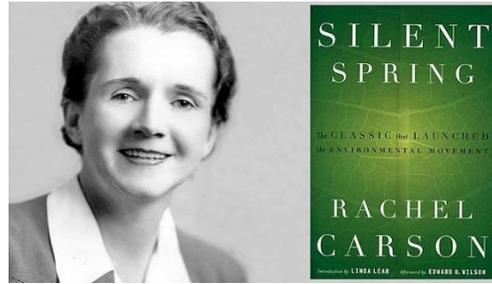
1978	Harvey Milk , one of American's openly gay elected officials was assassinated in San Francisco
1981	The AIDS/HIV crisis was identified in the United States
1987	Congressman Barney Frank publicly announced his "coming out"
1994	DADT "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to allow gay members in the military to serve without identifying their sexuality
1996	The National AIDS Memorial was dedicated in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
1998	The Matthew Shepard Memorial was dedicated on the University of Wyoming in memory of a student who was beaten to death
2009	The Hate-Crimes Legislation of 1968 was strengthened towards crimes or violence based on gender or sexual orientation
2011	DADT was repealed as being discriminatory

By spring 2015, thirty-seven states legalized gay marriages due to the law signed by President Bill Clinton in 1996 called **DOMA – Defense of Marriage Act**. This law was challenged in the Supreme Court and found unconstitutional. The ruling stated that if a state provides for legal same-sex marriages, the federal government must recognize these marriages as legal too. This opened the door for equal treatment in economic, medical, legal, and social issues. In June 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriages were legal in all fifty states in the case of **Obergefell v. Hodges**.

The night of the decision, the White House was illuminated by a rainbow of colors.

Major Domestic Issues Faced by the Nation

In 1961, **Rachel Carson**, a scientist and environmentalist, wrote *Silent Spring*, a book that discusses the hazards of agricultural pesticides. Her writing brought public attention, including that of President John F. Kennedy, to the serious concerns related to air and water pollution. Her work was to inspire the environmental movement and subsequent government legislation.



Because of *Silent Spring*, President Kennedy, before his assassination, planned to create a government agency to handle pollution and other environmental issues. In 1970, during the Richard Nixon administration, the **EPA – Environmental Protection Agency** was formed. It was an indicator of how important the environment was to the nation. In April 1970, the first **Earth Day** was celebrated bringing more attention to environmental issues.

The **Clean Air Act of 1970** was a federal law that addressed air pollution and acid rain. **President Jimmy Carter** strongly supported environmental programs but inflation and energy shortages prevented him from undertaking ambitious programs. Coal polluted the air but it was also needed as fuel for power plants; emission controls for cars worked, but these devices pushed up the prices for vehicles.

The **Clean Air Act** was amended in both 1970 and 1990, to address specific problems as acid rain, ground level ozone, stratospheric ozone depletion, and air toxins.

The **CWA - Clean Water Act** of 1972 set specific guidelines for individuals and businesses regarding water pollution and government standards for clean water.

The **ESA – Endangered Species Act** of 1973 included both plants and animals. The nation was divided into large zones composed of states with similar vegetation and animals and ESA staff still serve each zone.

During the administration of **President Ronald Reagan** in the 1980's, there was little new environmental legislation. Reagan did, to a degree, protect California's forests, lakes, rivers, and ocean shoreline but did little on a national scale. He would rather have private industry work on environmental problems than creating government agencies.

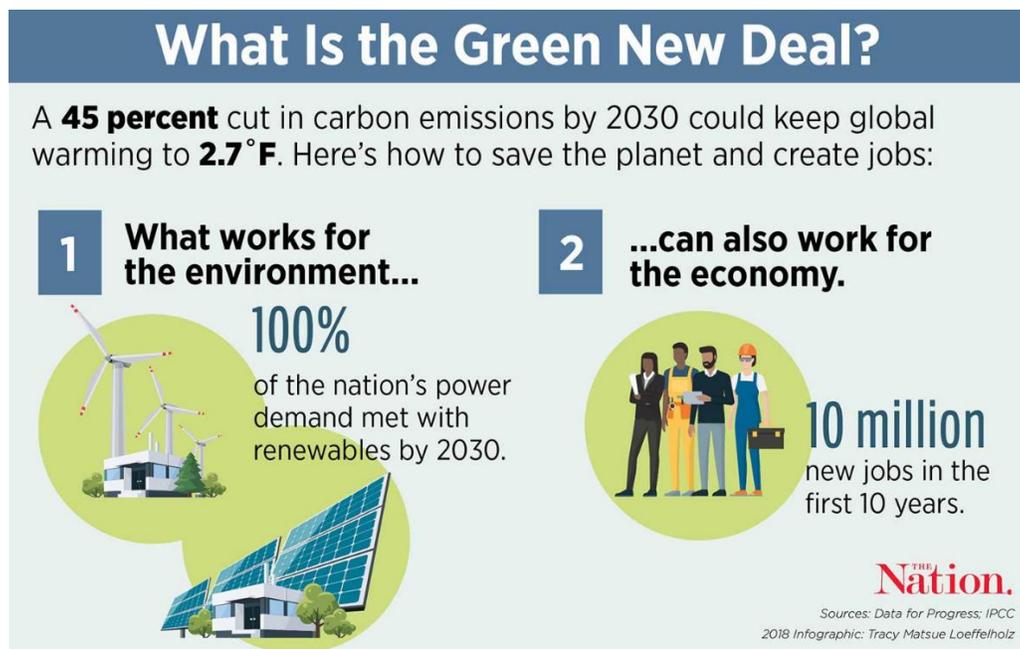
By the 1990's **recycling projects** in towns and cities were underway. Community organizers opposed plans to convert vacant lands into dumpsites. Communities addressed poor drinking water in towns and cities and the automobile industry was forced to add emission control devices to their cars.

In 2007, **former Vice-President Al Gore** won a **Nobel Peace Prize** for his efforts to educate the public about global warming. From this came the phrase “**going green.**” **Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama** all directed efforts to increase energy efficiency.



President Donald Trump openly stated his disbelief in global warming and loosened government control over industries that were enacted to protect the environment. The EPA was reduced in size during his administration and climate control issues were not a serious concern to Trump. **In November 2016, about 150 countries agreed to the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.** The goal was to recognize the need for the threat of climate change, and limit and decrease greenhouse gases. In his first months of his presidency, **Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the International Paris Agreement.**

Following the congressional election of 2018, some new representatives and some returning representatives advocated a **Green Revolution (the Green New Deal)** to promote environmental issues and revive the government's commitment to protecting the environment.



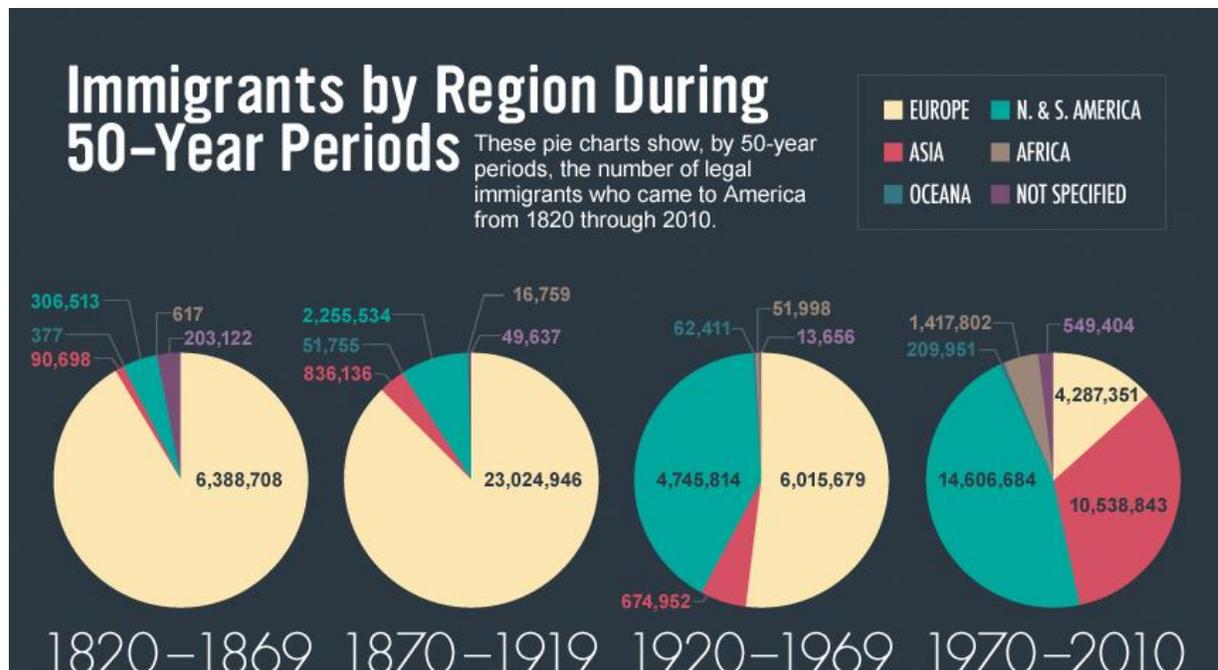
Immigration Legislation

In 1950 Congress passed the **McCarran Internal Security Act** to limit the actions of anyone who the government saw as a threat to the United States. Then, in 1952, the **McCarran-Walter Act** restricted the immigration of people from communist-dominated countries in Asia, southern and central Europe. Despite President Truman's veto, Congress passed the bills.

In 1965 Congress passed the **Immigration and Nationality Act (Hart-Celler Act)**. It was signed by **President Lyndon Johnson at the Statue of Liberty** in New York and formally ended the admissions policy based solely on race and ethnicity. The Act focused more on family reunification and attracting immigrants who could prove that they had professional skills needed in the United States. Since this Act, over 18 million new immigrants have come to America, many from Asia and Latin America.

The Immigration Act of 1990 reduced immigration restrictions even more by increasing the number of immigrants allowed each year from different countries.

The **Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986** was enforced to cut down the number of undocumented workers living in America and stopped employers from hiring illegal immigrants. Unfortunately, this legislation did not stop the thousands of people who enter the country illegally and work in sweatshops for low pay and live in substandard housing.



Border protection has been a major problem for the nation's government, especially during the Presidency of George W. Bush, prompted by the attacks on September 11, 2001.

The **Read ID Act of 2005** strengthened security requirements at the borders and granted additional powers to **Homeland Security**. There are continued discussions in Congress over border patrols, protections, restrictions of illegal immigrants, and anti-terrorism laws which produces mixed reactions in Congress and on both sides of the border.

A major goal of the **Obama administration** was Immigration reform. Children born in the United States to illegal aliens are now graduating from universities and are now trying to enter the job market. No new legislation has been passed and these young people, known as "**dreamers**" are still waiting for action on the **DACA – the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals** law. Many of these children came from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico.

The **Trump administration** took a hardline approach to illegal immigration. Early in his presidency he used an Executive Order to ban immigration from **six Muslim-majority nations**. The lower courts halted this travel ban but the Supreme Court upheld a partial ban from the Executive Order.

Another of Trump's campaign promises was to erect a **new wall between** the United States and Mexico, claiming that Mexico would pay for it. Congress has been unwilling to provide funding. The administration had also to defend its policy towards the temporary camps for illegal immigrants and the separation of children from their parents.